AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A non-naturally occurring bifunctional inhibitor molecule of less than about 5000 daltons that inhibits a binding event between a first target protein and a second binding protein, said bifunctional inhibitor molecule consisting of:

a target protein ligand and a blocking protein ligand optionally joined by a linking group;

wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule is capable of simultaneously binding said target protein and said blocking protein in a manner sufficient to inhibit said binding event.

2. (Withdrawn) The bifunctional inhibitor molecule according to Claim 1, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule comprises a linking group.

3. (Withdrawn) The bifunctional inhibitor molecule according to Claim 1, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule binds to a site of said target protein that is also bound by said second binding protein.

Claims 4-15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting a binding event between a ~~first~~ target protein **(T)** and a ~~second~~ binding protein **(P)** in a host, ~~said method~~ comprising:

administering to said host an effective amount of a non-naturally occurring bifunctional inhibitor molecule **(I)** of less than 5000 daltons consisting essentially of:

(a) a target protein ligand that specifically binds to **a** ~~said first~~ target protein **(T)**; and

(b) a blocking protein ligand that specifically binds to a blocking protein **(B)** ,

wherein said target protein ligand and said blocking protein ligand are **covalently** bonded to each other, optionally through a linking group;

in order to ~~**simultaneously**~~ **non-covalently** bind ~~**said first**~~ **the** target protein **(T)** and **the** ~~**said**~~ blocking protein **(B)** to produce a tripartite complex **(T-I-B)** that ~~**inhibits said binding event of said second binding protein to said first target protein**~~ **prevents access of the binding protein (P) to the target protein (T).**

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule comprises a linking group.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule (I) binds to a site of said target protein that is also bound by said ~~**second**~~ binding protein (P).

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule (I) binds to a site of said target protein (T) that is not bound by said ~~**second**~~ binding protein (P).

20. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said tripartite complex is produced intracellularly.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said tripartite complex is produced extracellularly.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said blocking protein (B) is endogenous to said host.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 22, wherein said blocking protein (B) is selected from the group consisting of: peptidyl-prolyl isomerases, Hsp90 (Heat shock protein 90), steroid hormone receptors, cytoskeletal proteins, albumin and vitamin receptors.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule (I) is administered as a pharmaceutical preparation.

Claims 25-39 (Canceled).